

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted responsive to the Office Action mailed December 22, 2006. In the aforesaid action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 5, 8-11, 13 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. By the present amendment, each independent claim has been amended to recite allowable subject matter, and it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5, and claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice. Further, new claims 16-18 have been added and correspond to allowable claims 1, 8 and 13 rewritten in independent form. Thus, these claims are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawn claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a divisional application.

Finally, a typographical error has been discovered and corrected in claim 6. No new matter has been added.

An earnest and thorough effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. If, upon consideration of this response, the Examiner feels there are issues which can be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

It is believed that no additional fee is due in connection with this paper. If, however, any fee is due, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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